

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 743

By Herron

A RESOLUTION to recognize Richard L. Tidwell on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who in their years of work have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Richard L. "Dick" Tidwell is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for eleven years as the City Administrator and City Recorder of the City of Martin; and

WHEREAS, Dick Tidwell will be taking a much deserved retirement on December 31, 2003; and

WHEREAS, in 1973, Mr. Tidwell began his illustrious career in public service as the Finance Director of Fort Smith, Arkansas, in which position he was responsible for the computerization of utility billing; and

WHEREAS, after three years, he moved to West Memphis Arkansas and created the position of Finance Director, subsequently constructing a financial reporting system and the computerization of the General Ledger; and

WHEREAS, in 1986, Mr. Tidwell moved to Weakley County to serve as the County's Finance Director; and

WHEREAS, his career eventually culminated in the City of Martin, to which he moved in 1992, to serve as the first City Administrator; and

WHEREAS, during Dick Tidwell's career with the City of Martin, he accomplished a multitude of tasks, including the implementation of a policy to upgrade the city's deteriorating water and sewer lines, an annual plan to pave and improve the street system, an annual plan to install new sidewalks, and a series of major public projects such as upgrading the city's water and waste water treatment plants, renovating the city's historical library, and constructing the Martin Recreational Complex and new water tanks; and

WHEREAS, a Certified Government Financial Manager, Mr. Tidwell spearheaded efforts to organize the Soybean Festival, a yearly fall festival that brings between 6,000 and 10,000 people to the city; implemented an emergency warning system, disaster plan, and GASB 34; established a fixed asset listing; and annexed into the city areas that added approximately 1,000 citizens to the census; and

WHEREAS, Dick Tidwell is an active and important part of his community and his profession, participating in numerous worthy civic and professional organizations; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tidwell exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Dick Tidwell has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we thank Richard L. Tidwell for his dedication to public service and the City of Martin and extend to him our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.